

Air Force," but today I must. Yesterday, the voters of New Mexico's First District chose Heather Wilson, an Air Force Academy grad, to replace our friend and departed colleague, Steve Schiff.

I welcome Heather to the Congress, adding to the ranks of distinguished women who currently serve in this body, more than any other time in our Nation's history.

More importantly, I welcome her as a fellow veteran of the armed services. As fewer and fewer veterans elect to serve in Congress, it is important that we have people like Heather Wilson who, even though she served in the Air Force, still understands the need for a strong national defense.

Mr. Speaker, I expect Heather will be a strong and forceful voice for our men and women in uniform, as well as for the common sense family values that are the true strength of this Nation.

Heather Wilson is a worthy and welcome successor to our friend, Steve Schiff.

CONGRESS MUST PASS HMO REFORM

(Mr. GEJDENSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, one has to wonder what motivates Speaker GINGRICH to continually stop movement on HMO reform.

Today in the paper again a 52-year-old father of five suffers and waits to get a liver transplant, and it is not approved until he is too ill and too sick to get that transplant. My only brother's girlfriend died at 38 years of age as the HMO, the managed care system, delayed. Delayed testing, delayed X-rays, until it was too late.

In Florida, the legislature took a step today. They started to provide patients some rights. This Congress has to get past the Speaker and the Republican leadership and fight for the life and breath of the American people to pass HMO reform.

CRIME IN OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, American schools are under a siege of violence. Recent events have again focused this Nation's attention on violence in American schools.

Despite the long-standing lip service to the problem, media reports have recently highlighted that schools are not safe places of learning.

Mr. Speaker, let me share with this body some alarming statistics. Physical attacks or fights without the use of weapons lead the list of reported crimes in our schools, with about 190,000 such events occurring in any given year.

Moreover, 116,000 incidents of theft or larceny were reported, along with 98,000 incidents of vandalism.

Most alarming, Mr. Speaker, is that serious crimes included 4,000 rapes or sexual assaults, 7,000 robberies, and 11,000 physical attacks or fights with dangerous weapons, knives and guns.

These events are taking place in every congressional district in the country.

Mr. Speaker, the time to act is now. For the safety of our children, it is imperative that this Congress focus its attention on this critical issue.

PATIENT BILL OF RIGHTS

(Ms. STABENOW asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. Speaker, I would first rise today to commend President Clinton for this week announcing new patient protections for those who are covered by Medicare. The time is now for all of us in the House to join together to extend those same protections to every single person who is covered by health care in this country.

The gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL) AND THE GENTLEMAN FROM IOWA (MR. GANSKE) have come together in an important effort that should not be watered down by other proposals that do not make the test, that do not really protect patients.

Mr. Speaker, we need to make sure that our constituents, as well as ourselves, have access to specialists, that we can have emergency room costs covered when it is necessary, that we have the opportunity to fully discuss with our physicians the kinds of treatments that we need if we are in managed care.

Time is overdue for us to provide the kinds of patient protections necessary in managed care to make sure that our constituents have the quality care that they deserve.

Mr. Speaker, I call upon the House to support the Patient Bill of Rights and to take it up immediately.

DOLLARS TO THE CLASSROOM ACT

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, President Clinton has been calling on Congress to start yet another Federal education program to hire 100,000 new teachers. If the President wants to hire teachers, then he should be ready to support H.R. 3248, the Dollars to the Classroom Act.

The Dollars to the Classroom Act sends 95 percent of the money for 31 Federal education programs directly to local schools. With the flexibility given in the Dollars to the Classroom Act, principals will be able to hire more teachers for America's schools, which our kids deserve.

Our Nation's parents deserve for their education tax dollars to actually reach their child's classroom. Let us stop talking about hiring teachers. Let us actually make it possible by passing the Dollars to the Classroom Act. It is time we put children first in education by directing our tax dollars to the classroom.

CHINA GOBBLING UP AMERICAN NATIONAL SECURITY SECRETS

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, on the very day that President Clinton leaves for China, China thumbs their nose at America once again. Check this out.

Top U.S. officials say, and I quote: China stole a top secret device off an American satellite. The theft was so serious, our National Security Agency was forced to change all of our communication codes.

After all of this, the White House still wants a permanent Most Favored Nation trade status for China.

Free trade my ascot, Mr. Speaker.

This is a free ride and a free for all for China, who is gobbling up our national security secrets faster than the President can down a Big Mac and a box of fries. Think about that.

Mr. Speaker, I want to yield back what secret codes, secrets, and national security we have left.

CUT TAXES ON CAPITAL INVESTMENT TO KEEP JOBS IN AMERICA

(Mr. TIAHRT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, the Democrats say we need to keep jobs in America for American workers, Republicans say that we need to keep jobs in America for American workers. The difference is that liberal Democrat policies do everything possible to drive companies overseas or encourage investment capital to go abroad.

Think about it. Democrats rail against "corporate America." They support increasing expansion of regulation and they seek to raise taxes on the people who create and keep jobs. Naturally, businesses respond by moving from a high tax country to a low tax country.

Mr. Speaker, if we want to keep jobs in America, make America the best place in the whole world to open a business, the best place in the whole world to invest, the best place in the whole world to start a business, the best place in the whole world to make a profit, the best place in the whole world to keep profits, the best place in the whole world to build a company and make it grow. We must keep jobs in America.